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May 5, 2006

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Administrators, Freestanding Medical Detoxification Facilities that Treat Individuals for Psychoactive Substance Abuse or Dependence

**FROM:** Dennis L. Gibbs, Director  
Division of Health Licensing 

**SUBJECT:** Provider-Wide Exception – On-Site Storage of Legend Medications

Section 1106.D. of Regulation 61-93, Standards for Licensing Facilities That Treat Individuals for Psychoactive Substance Abuse or Dependence, pertaining to treatment and services provided by freestanding medical detoxification facilities states, "Unless the facility has a permitted pharmacy, stocks of legend medications shall not be stored except those specifically prescribed for individual clients."

Due to the condition of clients that may require prompt medical attention, it may be appropriate for a facility to have stocks of legend medications associated with addressing medical distress, withdrawal symptoms, and other medications necessary for clients to safely complete the detoxification process, and Tuberculin PPD serum, available for administration as needed.

Therefore, in the interest of establishing reasonable standards that can be met by providers and yet do not compromise the health and well-being of the clients of freestanding medical detoxification facilities that treat individuals for psychoactive substance abuse or dependence, it has been determined that alternative standards will be considered as acceptable.

All freestanding medical detoxification facilities that treat individuals for psychoactive substance abuse or dependence will be required to meet the standard outlined in the licensing standards, *i.e.*, R61-93, Section 1106.D., that require facilities which maintain stocks of legend drugs and biologicals that are not specifically prescribed for individual clients to obtain and maintain a valid, current, pharmacy permit from the SC Board of Pharmacy, or, as an alternative:

*Stocks of legend medications that address medical distress, withdrawal symptoms, and other medications necessary for clients to safely complete the detoxification process, and Tuberculin PPD serum, not specifically prescribed for individual clients may be retained and labeled as stock in the facility for administration without a pharmacy permit provided the following conditions are met:*

1. Each facility shall have a nondispensing drug outlet permit issued by the SC Board of Pharmacy;
2. At least monthly a licensed nurse shall:
  - a. Review medication storage areas and emergency medication kits;

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*b. Review all medications in the facility for expiration dates and ensure the removal of discontinued or expired medications from use as indicated;*

*c. Verify proper storage of medications and biologicals in the facility.*

*3. Stocks of legend medications shall not include controlled drugs.*

This exception applies to any freestanding medical detoxification psychoactive substance abuse or dependence facility licensed by the Department. It relates solely to SC licensing standards. Any adverse condition(s) that may be related to this exception may result in revocation of this exception by the Department.

If there are any questions regarding the above, please call Randy Clark at (803) 545-4370.

DLG/rel

cc: Leon Frishman  
Randy Clark  
Wilbur Harling

Lee Dutton, DAODAS